

United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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HELENA, MONTANA — Asarco will move ahead with most of the previously planned structure cleaning and demolition at the East Helena plant after receiving a letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 19, 2008 telling the company to proceed.

In July 2008, EPA, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Asarco consulted with SHPO about compilation of historic records related to the structures slated for demolition. Asarco hired a contractor to compile photo documentation, site drawings, and measured floor plans for impacted structures scheduled to be cleaned or demolished.

Because this documentation and recordation work was done well, and quickly, the bulk of planned 2008 structure cleaning and demolition work can still be accomplished. EPA and MDEQ worked with Asarco over the last two months to ensure that the structures presenting the highest environmental hazards will be addressed this year. The stacks will not be demolished in 2008.

Asarco contractors mobilized on August 20, 2008. Facility cleaning will begin on August 25, 2008. The Acid Plant, the Blast Furnace Baghouse and Flue and the Monier Flue are among the structures that will be cleaned and demolished. Demolition of the Acid Plant will start on or about September 2, 2008.

Demolition wastes, including the removed asbestos siding and flue dusts, will be placed in the CAMU Cell 2, which was constructed earlier this year. Metals will be reclaimed.

Exposed soil areas in the demolition footprint will be sampled to better define source areas and help guide further site characterization work.

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